



The Independent Voice of Ellis County

September 7, 2007; Volume 3, Issue 5;
www.TheOnlineEdge.net; Hays, Kansas 67601

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....and much more

FREE
Take One

Windbreaker

Dissenting vote enough to kill
proposed wind farm near Hays

The Skinny: The Ellis County Commission met Tuesday to vote on a conditional-use permit for a wind farm proposed to be built southwest of Hays.

The Vote:

2-1 in favor of the permit

Perry Henman voted against it.

Dennis Pfannenstiel and Vernon Berens voted for it.

Results:

Conditional-use permit rejected.

The decision needed to be unanimous in order for the permit to be voted in because of a protest petition filed by citizens living within proximity of the proposed wind farm site.

REJECTED

✕ Fort Hays State

Students, professors get chance to experience mobile computing

Mike Courson
Features Editor

Although mobile computing at Fort Hays State is still in its earliest infancy, the last couple weeks have given those at the university their first chance to try out the technology on a large scale with actual classes.

The mobile computing initiative, which required all incoming freshmen to purchase tablet computers for use in the classroom, formally started this academic year at Fort Hays. Returning students were not required to purchase the computers.

Last year, The Edge interviewed pro-

fessors and future students about the system. Most professors seemed optimistic about the capabilities and advantages of mobile computing. Many students, on the other hand, wondered if the costs would outweigh the benefits. One week into the school year, the verdict is still out on mobile computing.

Many students are happy about the accessibility offered by their laptops. "The best part of using the laptops is that they are so easy to use everywhere around campus. Its nice that to know that I can pretty much take it anywhere and be able to access the

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Rockin' at Frontier Park



Photo by Brandon Worf
Stephen Brown of the local music group 4 A.M. Edition performs at Frontier Park on Saturday, September 1.

Hays High football starts season with win



Mike Courson
Features Editor

The 2007 high school football season kicked off last Friday, and for the Hays High Indians, that meant traveling to Marysville. The Indians had opened the previous three seasons against Marysville, with the away team leaving with a win each time. First-year coach Rick Blosser and his team knew it was their turn.

The Bulldogs struck first and led 7-0 in the second quarter when Indian running back Jesse Stewart broke a 38-yard run for a score. The Indians scored again on a 13-yard pass from HHS quarterback Austin Klaus to Logan Downing. The Bulldogs again tied it up with a 4-yard touchdown pass. Still tied in the third quarter, the Indians were able to block a punt, short-

ening the field and allowing Adam Arhhold to punch one in from seven yards out. The Bulldogs again tied the game at 21. It stayed that way until late in the fourth when Dan Disney intercepted a Bulldog pass. Stewart scored from seven yards out with 1:27 left in the game for what turned out to be the game winner. Stewart finished with 87 yards on 15 carries, and two touchdowns. Klaus completed 6 of 12 passes for 69 yards, a touchdown and an interception.

Blosser won his first game as head coach. How many more will he win this year? Here is a look at the rest of the Hays High schedule:

On September 7, the Indians host defending 5A champions Stilwell-Blue Valley. The Tigers were arguable the best team in the entire state last year,

but lost many starters to graduation. In week one, the Tigers beat Manhattan High in a controversial ending. A bit of luck gave trailing Blue Valley first and ten at the MHS 14-yd line late in the game. Three plays later, it was fourth and ten with 33 seconds left in the game. The Tigers scored on the next play to tie the game. The point-after would be the winner. The kicker missed, but MHS was penalized for roughing the kicker. The kicker hit the second try and the Tigers won 23-22 on their home field. Tiger quarterback Tanner Purdon completed 11 of 26 passes for 119 yards to a variety of receivers. Running back Matt Otterstedt led the way with 152 yards on 27 carries.

Continued on Page 5

Wind farm should have won out

What a shame. What a total *waste* of taxpayer money and time. The whole issue has brought nothing but ridicule and satire upon the entire community as a whole.

You know what I'm referring to; it's the wind farm issue.

I would like to congratulate the opposition on this issue on a well-fought, but entirely ill-founded victory.

While much of their tactics were

effective, much of their logic was wholly flawed.

Only in this part of the country, in this part of the state, could something so conceivably clean, efficient, and effective, be voted down in the name of politics. Only something so beneficial and aesthetically pleasing could be so appealing and worthwhile to so little a population.

You think I'm blasting the majority that voted down the wind

farm, and you're completely right. But only on this level.

The wind farm represented much more than just progress. It represents the future, to be cliché. It is what our energy needs have come to know, and will continue to know for the rest of what may be eternity. Unfortunately the opposition seems to be oblivious to what is reality.

Let's keep this simple and contextual. Wind turbines are clean,

simple, effective, and long-lasting; what isn't true is that they are noisy, polluting, and intrusive. If *anyone* is worrisome about intrusiveness, then I suggest they take up their cause with the cell phone companies, and the radio stations, plus the county and city organizations; they collectively have more radio towers with red lights than anyone else out there.

I haven't seen any legislation come out of Spearville regarding their fairly large wind farm since its completion a few years ago. You'd think that would count for something, but unfortunately it hasn't seemed to mean much.

It's extremely difficult to refute hard science, especially in the face of reason. When people begin resorting to childish, and outright defamatory tactics, one has to consider the legitimacy of their cause, or the reasons behind their cause.

Ultimately, I wholly disagree with the commissions' decision. Granted, it had to be unanimous in order to pass, but the fact that it didn't pass is ridiculous.

There is no logical reason for the issue to not have passed; the logic supporting the opposition

is not logic: it is fallacy and fantasy.

For something that has been around for decades in some form or another, it seems hardly accurate that one could argue it to be noisy at the very least. Automobiles and trains are far louder than wind turbines could ever be. And you could even argue that semi-trucks and tractor-trailers are far more detrimental to not only our environment, but to our visual environmental integrity, than anything else. It makes no sense to spurn something that has nearly nothing negative about it. It's absurd and absolutely backwards.

In plain and simple terminology, this is going backwards. For the signs on I-70 that say, "Hays Has It", progress is certainly not included in that distinction. One can't help but think so when such a simple, but effective and economically beneficial plan gets voted down by a town that knows nothing about it. I cannot agree with something that is entirely wrong on more than one level. I'm not the only person like this however. It's time we did something about it. Let's get with the program people.

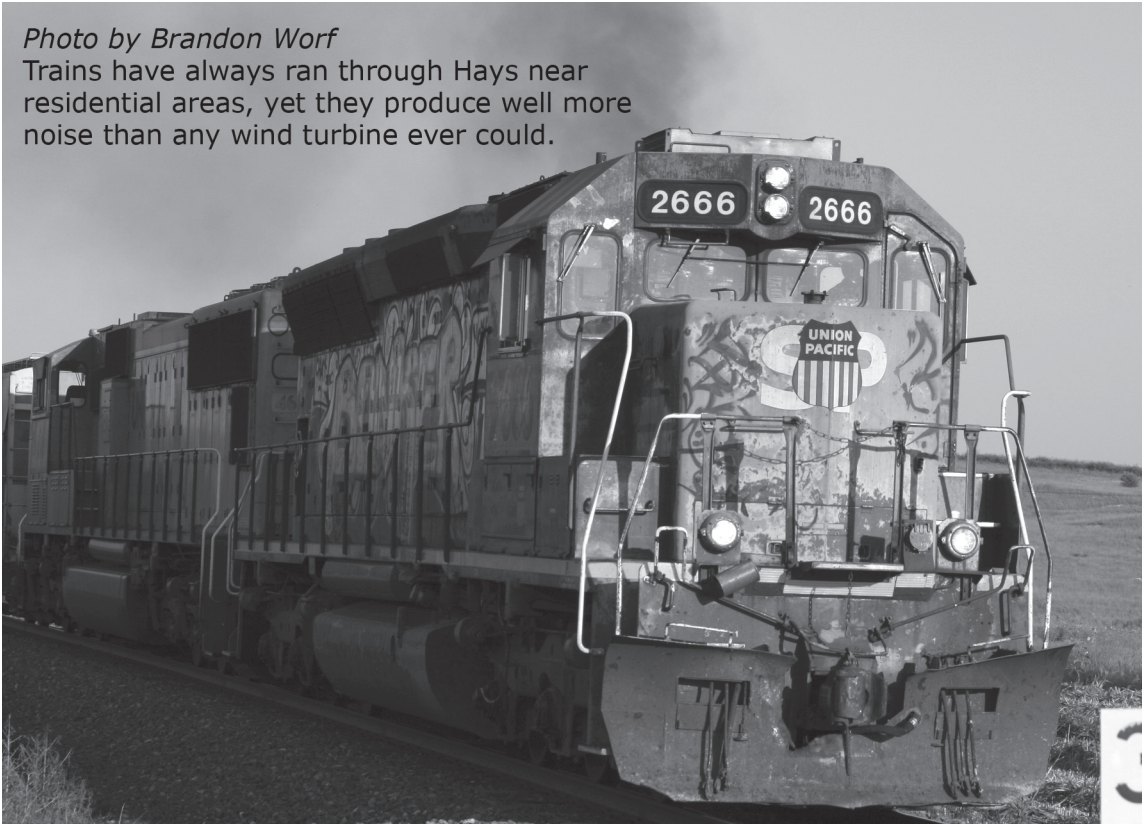


Photo by Brandon Worf
Trains have always ran through Hays near residential areas, yet they produce well more noise than any wind turbine ever could.

Driving Drunk Is Bad!



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Tired of crappy toilet paper advertising

Cut the crap. They use bears, puppies, royalty, clouds and even babies, but is all this meandering around the subject really necessary? And do these cute little images really help sell toilet paper? People crap. They use toilet paper to wipe it off their butts. I don't think it's a big revelation. Granted, it is not the most lovely topic to discuss, but when you make your living selling toilet paper, it would seem to be something you'd about have to at least mention when promoting your product.



Apparently, though, the popular solution is to just wipe away the realistic aspects of the product in favor of advertising cute babies, cuddly dogs or other images contradictory to the actual function of toilet paper. Perhaps the closest to advertising truth I've seen out of the industry comes from Charmin, with the cartoon bear who takes us to the heart of the wilderness where he and his friends line up to take dumps next to a tree (and use

Charmin, of course). Given the size and diet of a bear, I'd probably recommend other animals stay clear of that tree afterwards. All kidding aside, while the Charmin ads are creative, they still just run around the truth of the product. The sad thing is, there is just so much potential for comic relief. Heck, there are a multitude of Hollywood types who have made very lucrative careers out of such toilet humor (see Parker, Trey, and Stone, Matt). I think a toilet paper company that threw out all the euphemistic bullcrap of their competitors and made some very creative and funny commercials could really turn the industry on its ass. And there is hope. A brief search of the web found one such company. ShitBegone. Yes, this company knows its shit. And it's made from recycled paper. Perhaps in time they could take the throne in the TP in-

dustry (sorry, I couldn't resist that one). Don't believe this is a real company? Check them out online at www.shitbegone.com. While they are not in your local grocery store, you can order direct from them online. Supposedly the paper is soft and of high quality and, if nothing else, it would make a good conversation piece. Now let's hope the rest of the industry sits down and takes notice.



Still skeptical on mobile computing

You can't build the world overnight. That point has probably been conveyed a thousand different ways throughout history. That said, I still remain a skeptic about the new mobile computing system at Fort Hays State University. From the beginning, the biggest factor influencing my opinion on the matter has been cost. Through work, I've traveled through many western and north central Kansas towns, the primary base of Fort Hays State's recruitment. While I see the occasional wealthy neigh-

I do know one thing: I'm not still paying for those pens and paper that got me through college.



hood, mostly I see working class homes. As a member of that working class, I know how difficult it is to afford college, then on top of that, a laptop computer exceeding \$1,000. It's more than just the money spent that bothers me. To begin with, many high school upper-classmen already have working computers. Forcing them to buy another, more expensive computer may be great for the economy, but it's terribly hard on the personal checkbook. Checkbook? Most students presumably bought their tablet with some form of credit. \$1,500 today turns into a far greater amount when paid off in small increments. All this for a computer with negligible benefits? Yes, I question the necessity

of the tablet. Only freshmen are required to have them. Does this mean the other students will suffer in their work? Probably not. Fort Hays is not a new institution, and its students have never been required to carry laptops to class. Still, they graduated and became every profession you can think of. I use my friend's story to illustrate my point. She was awfully proud of her new electronic calendar. But you never used a calendar before, I told her. Yes, but this one is easy to use, she replied. She couldn't quite grasp that she'd just paid money to make more unnecessary work for herself. I fear the tablet will do the same. Gone are the days with simple handwritten notes, replaced by the

stylus, save button, and hopefully working software and good virus protection. Pencil and paper is simple, but it works. The skeptic in me looks hard at the deals offered to students from certain companies. It smells a bit like the Sallie Mae controversy, where universities took money from the company in return for guaranteed business references. Mobile computing is obviously good for computer manufacturers. I hope the western Kansas student with little money and hopes of an affordable college education is not being overlooked in the name of profit. All that said, I freely admit there could be a great future with the laptops. Some professors have suggested that textbooks may soon be irrelevant. As the selling and buying back of textbooks may be the biggest



cheat yet, the extinction of that system might be worth the costs now. Furthermore, I fully understand that many students and professors will benefit from the new ease of note taking and other capabilities the tablets offer. I simply wish the university did not mandate the new technology. In the end, only the future will tell if mobile computing will be a success. Only then, when more students than not have tablets, will departments be able to use the laptops on a full-scale basis. By that time, we should already have a good idea if easier means better. Maybe handwriting notes and not downloading them makes memorization easier. Or maybe that's just how I learned best. I do know one thing: I'm not still paying for those pens and paper that got me through college.

THE EDGE

borhood, mostly I see working
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Mission:
The Edge strives to serve as a voice of integrity in the Ellis County community. *The Edge* endeavors to entertain and inform readers through coverage of locally relevant issues. The publication is founded on the ideal journalistic qualities of honesty, accuracy, integrity, fairness and public service.

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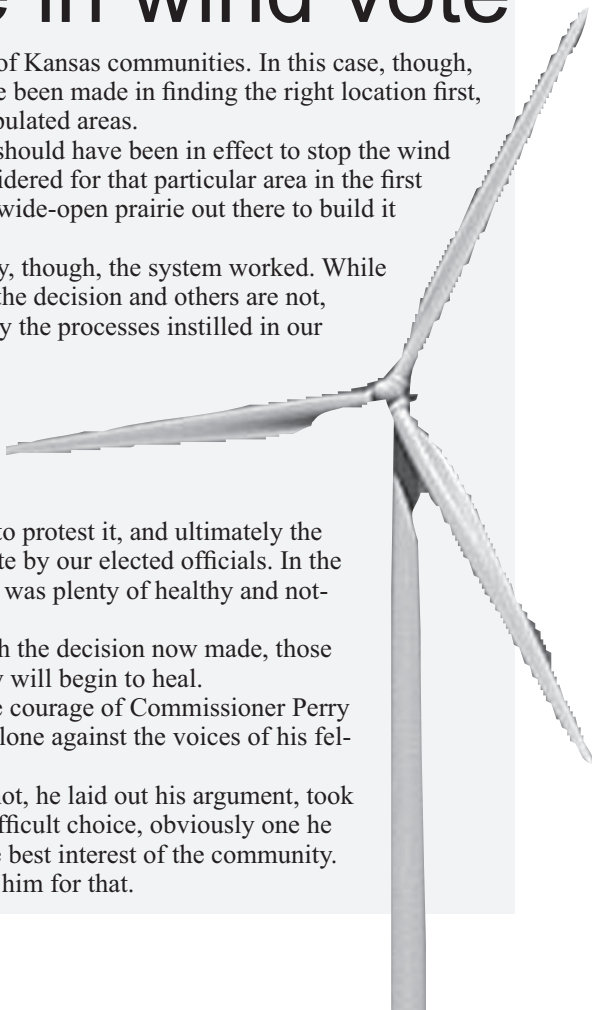
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Staff Editorial
Henman showed courage in wind vote

As the sole county commissioner voting against the conditional-use permit for the wind farm proposal, Perry Henman put himself in the line of fire. For better or worse, he stood up, spoke his mind, laid out his line of reasoning and stuck to his guns. Since a unanimous decision was needed to approve the project, Henman's "no" vote essentially killed the wind farm initiative. Whether you agree with his decision and rationale or not, you have to admire his courage to stand alone and vote opposite his fellow commissioners in what is most likely the biggest decision any of them will make for the county. While a significant number of people stood against the project, a large number also were in favor. Either way, a lot of people were not going to be happy with Tuesday's decision. If indeed the wind farm idea is dead at this point and the company does not reapply in a year, there will be plenty of what-ifs strewn about in the coming days, months and even years. And Henman will always be remembered as the commissioner who voted it down. But Henman is right. The zoning rules and regulations do need revisions before something like this project is approved. Let us hope that next time something of this nature comes up, the commission will be ready with the proper rules and regulations already in place. Zoning is created to protect the rights of citizens from having large industrial complexes built near them, regardless of whether or not it is an environmentally friendly or highly lucrative industrial complex. The clean energy wind can provide should be harnessed and used to

the economic benefit of Kansas communities. In this case, though, more care should have been made in finding the right location first, farther away from populated areas. Zoning regulations should have been in effect to stop the wind farm from being considered for that particular area in the first place. There's lots of wide-open prairie out there to build it on, after all. At the end of the day, though, the system worked. While some are happy with the decision and others are not, everything operated by the processes instilled in our county government. The proposed development idea worked its way through the system, those living nearby were allowed to protest it, and ultimately the decision came to a vote by our elected officials. In the adjoining times, there was plenty of healthy and not-so-healthy debate. Let us hope that with the decision now made, those rifts in the community will begin to heal. And let us salute the courage of Commissioner Perry Henman, who stood alone against the voices of his fellow commissioners. Agree with him or not, he laid out his argument, took a stand and made a difficult choice, obviously one he truly believes is in the best interest of the community. You have to respect him for that.



Heroes of 9/11

A note to terrorists

In the unlikely possibility that a terrorist might read this column, perhaps it is necessary for me to define the word hero. Certainly my definition is greatly different from theirs.

This is for them.

According to terrorists, a hero, often a martyr is so designated and feted because they are mass murderers of men, women, children, and babies. Throughout much of history such people; Adolph Hitler, Pol Pot, Genghis Khan and many others have been called monsters, inhuman, and various other such epithets, and rightly so. Only terrorists, who themselves fit into these categories could possibly find anything positive about such a celebration of the death of innocents.

September 11, 2001 showed the stark difference between heroes, true heroes, and the blackest of evil monsters as you define hero.

The difference? You celebrate death, horror and destruction. We celebrate life. Our Heroes do not fear death anymore than your mass murderers. Oh they don't want to die. They find life worth living as apparently your "heroes" do not, but our heroes died in an affirmation of life, saving the lives of innocents, not taking lives.

Your "heroes" crashed into buildings to kill. Our heroes rushed into those same buildings to save lives often succeeding at the cost of their own lives.

You sent 19 "heroes" to do your vile evil. Hundreds of heroes responded for our side.

Some 40 of them with the simple words, "Let's roll" gave their lives and thwarted

the plans of some of your "heroes." No doubt the same thing would have happened on the other three airplanes had they known the depravity and sickness of your "heroes".

I can not begin, in this commentary to praise, or even mention, all the heroes who stood against your evil, but I can mention just one, as representative of those hundreds of heroes who stood against your evil on that day.

His name was John W. Perry.

You call us racists, and there are racists among us, but John was a living, walking testament to what America believes and is working towards. John's parents were an African American father and Caucasian mother. They met at the University of Kansas where Jim Perry played football and went on to become

a physician. Even that does not tell the story. John's father once had his DNA tested. His heritage was European, Middle Eastern, African, and American and he passed for Arab and Indian. Incidentally, John's genealogy has been traced back to Thomas Jefferson through one of his slaves.

John was the very essence of an American, multi racial, born and raised in New York City but spending much time in the American heartland. His mother was from Salina Kansas and his father from Kansas City.

John was the epitome of an American and what America is striving to become, the epitome of what is good and decent in America.

As a child he was classified as having a learning disability. He didn't learn to

tie his shoes or read until he was 9 years old. In most countries on this earth that, with his mixed racial background would have made him a loser, a throw away life. He would not have had a chance. But John W. Perry was an American.

He was also was a New York City police officer, a lawyer, an actor, a linguist, who spoke eight languages, (and was still learning new ones), an active libertarian, a social worker helping abused children, a philosopher searching for his religion and a soft hearted soul who opened his wallet and his home to near strangers. A Russian friend once ran up over \$1500 in traffic tickets. He went to John thinking that as a policeman, John could "fix" those tickets. He learned later that John simply paid those tickets out of his own pocket. His two-bedroom apartment in a public housing complex near Lincoln Center was known as a free bed and breakfast.

John was a cop. He enforced the law. He did not agree with all of them though. There is a federal law preventing people with a felony conviction from obtaining government scholarship aid. John felt this was not just unfair, but counter productive. If a person could not better their life with education, it would be even more likely they would continue with crime. John stated a scholarship fund, specifically for those people.

Some learning disability!

John W. Perry was not your typical police officer. He spoke French, Spanish, Swedish, Finnish, Russian, just to name a few, and at the time of his death was learning Albanian.

He spoke languages so well that he once called his father and pretended to be a physician from India. He led his dad on for ages before admitting his joke. His mother laughed that with his good looks, movie connections and knowledge of Swedish, he could have been surrounded by beautiful Swedish girls.

John was a graduate of New York University School of Law where he was a classmate of John Kennedy. He finished five marathon races and took part in a swim around Manhattan. He did not complete that swim because of hypothermia. On the first anniversary of his death, his mother, who was in her late 60's, swam the entire 2.3 mile perimeter of Manhattan Island in John's honor.

He was an extra in movies, commercials and television. If you are a fan of the TV Soap opera, "One Life to Live" the next time you see a scene in that program which takes place in the police station, John's photograph hangs on the wall. He was a good friend of that shows cameraman.

He volunteered one day a week for the Kings County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. He was an officer in the New York State National Guard and had served in Bosnia. He was a board member in the New York Civil Liberties Union. He collected bulletproof vests from retired police officers and gave them to officers in Moscow.



John had friends all over the world.

John wasn't even on duty that day. In fact, he had that very morning of Sept 11, 2001, gone to file his retirement papers so he could become a full time lawyer, still helping people. He was at the very moment the first plane hit the twin towers at One Police Plaza just a short distance from the twin towers, He did not have to go into that burning, crumbling building to save lives, but he did. He was last seen helping a woman who had fainted. He was still with her when the building came tumbling down around them.

I'm sure he did not expect to die nor want to die, but he did. He died saving a life. How different from you who find your lives so shallow that death is preferred to life if only you can murder others.

You create death and darkness to affirm hatred, to sear the soul. John ran into that darkness to affirm life. You dance the dance macabre. John walked with the Gods. You hate. John loved. You stifle knowledge. John thrived on knowledge. You mock your God, creating a corner of filth in a great religion. John searched for God. You kill your own people. John saved his own people. You teach children to hate and kill. John taught children to love and live.

I do not know if there is a heaven and hell, but one thing is certain. If there is a heaven, John sits at the feet of god. And if there is a hell, your "heroes" are sitting under the cloven hooves of Satan, roasting there for eternity.

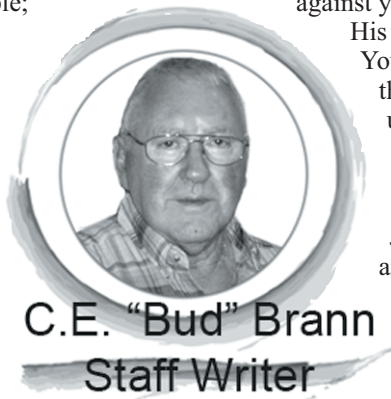
America is not a perfect country. It never has been and never will be. But our wars, our crimes, our failures, are there for the world to see, not hidden in the darkest recesses of the human soul. Men and women shine the spotlight of knowledge on those wars, and men and women of character strive to eliminate them. Sometimes they succeed.

Sometimes they fail, but they never cease in their efforts to advance and their light never dims. How different from you, who praise evil, darkness, ignorance and hate.

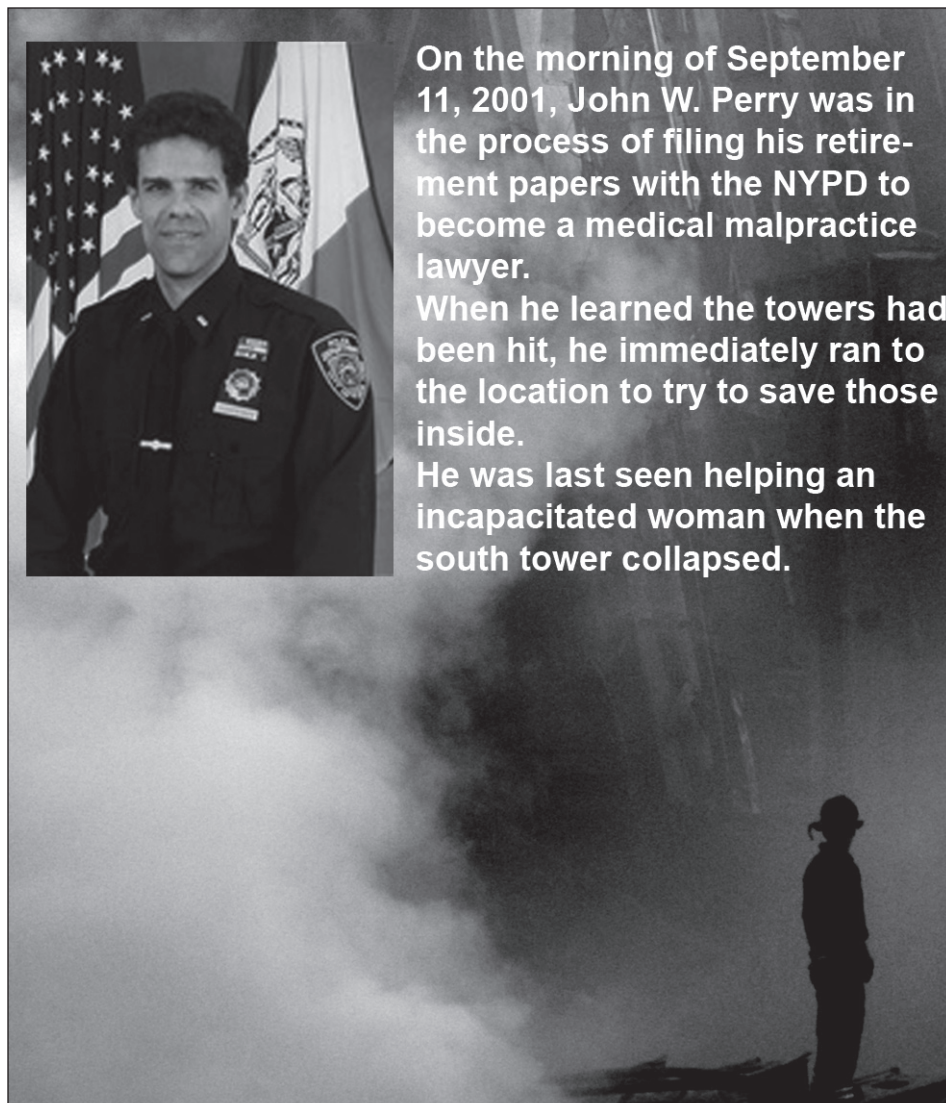
I graduated from Salina High School with John's mother. I never met John. But I knew him. I have known many Johns and many Jane's. We simplify and call them good people. They are people who give, not take. They give of what they have, and more importantly they give of what they are. So do your "heroes". Your "heroes" give of their hate, their ignorance. Ours give of their love and knowledge.

You can't win!!!!

Authors Note: Most of the information in this article was received directly from John's mother, Patricia Jo Perry and his father Dr. James Perry. Some was gleaned from various web sites, most notably the NYPD Angels, an organization which honors fallen police officers. In that site I found comments from fellow Police officers and friends.



C.E. "Bud" Brann
Staff Writer



On the morning of September 11, 2001, John W. Perry was in the process of filing his retirement papers with the NYPD to become a medical malpractice lawyer. When he learned the towers had been hit, he immediately ran to the location to try to save those inside. He was last seen helping an incapacitated woman when the south tower collapsed.

Indians have tough schedule ahead

Continued from Page 1

The Indians next travel to Liberal to open league play. The Redskins bring back the most experienced defense in the Western Athletic Conference with eight returning starters.

However, that may not mean much given last year's record of 2-8 (0-4 WAC). The Redskins opened with season with a loss at Ulysses.

Both teams had missed an extra point, and when the Tigers scored late in the fourth, they took a chance and converted a two-point conversion for the 21-20 win.

Hays welcomes Garden City for Homecoming on September 14. Buffalo quarterback Brodrick Smith could give the Indians a headache.

In week one, Smith returned the opening kick 96 yards for a score. From his spot at quarterback, he also scored from 45 and 6 yards out, the latter proving to be the game winner in a 35-28 contest at Derby.

Smith, the lone starting returner on de-

fense, finished with 164 yards on 25 carries. The Wichita Eagle has the Buffs ranked 6th in 6A.

The Indians take a WAC break to round out September by traveling to Goodland. Goodland opened the season with a 27-9 against Rawlings County.

Next, the Indians get back into league play with what could be the toughest team in the league.

Led by senior quarterback Kale Pick, Dodge City should make a run for the WAC title, possibly even a state title. Pick has already committed to the University of Arkansas, and his favorite target, wideout Mykael Thompson, is arguably the best wide-receiver in the state.

Last week, Pick completed his first five passes, finishing 10 of 15 for 253 yards and four touchdowns. He did all this before leaving the game early in the second half with an injured thumb. Thompson caught four passes for 84 yards and three touchdowns.

He added another score with an 87-yard interception return. The #5 Red Demons beat Wichita South 47-13, and will be featured on ESPNPU this Friday when they play Wichita East.

The Indians round out WAC play and kick off district play at home against Great Bend on October 12.

The Panthers lost in the state championship game, and like the Stilwell-Blue Valley Tigers, lost a lot of talent through graduation. Senior running back

Chase Bieberle poses a threat with his size and speed. Last week, at Blue Valley, Bieberle returned a kick 92 yards for a score. He also rushed for 91 yards on 21 carries.

Quarterback Brad Holt brings a lot of speed and an improved passing game to the table. He completed 8 of 13 passes for 145 yards and 2 touchdowns in the #2 Panther's 21-14 win.

For the second round of district, Hays travels to Salina South, who opened their

season with a 42-0 route over Winfield.

Running back Tanner Vinson put up 217 total yards and three touchdowns, including 164 yards on 21 carries.

The Cougars have two quarterbacks; it was Evan Myers putting up the numbers in week one. He completed 6 of 7 passes for 119 yards and 2 touchdowns.

He scored two more times on the ground and had 34 yards on 3 carries. The Cougars had 292 yards of offensive in the first half and led 35-0.

The final game of the year could well be against the McPherson. The Bullpups entered the season ranked #4, but opened against 3-time returning state champion #1 Hutchinson.

Though Hutchinson controlled most of the game, the Pups lost a respected 17-7 game.

How many games can Blosser win? Only time will tell, but with a schedule like this, Blosser and his Indian team have their work cut out for them.



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Memorial Union to host “FHSU” celebration

The ribbon is cut, the doors are open and the celebration is about to begin for the Memorial Union at Fort Hays State University. After more than 21 months, an \$8.5 million renovation is complete and the Union will host a four-day “FHSU” celebration from Sept. 10 to Sept. 13.

“F” is for Festival Day, Monday, Sept. 10, which will include performances from the Garden City High School Folkloric Dance Team and the Haskell Indian University Intertribal Culture Club on the union patio in the Quad starting at 11 a.m.

At 7 p.m., Lemuel Sheppard will perform a classic artistry of original folk music, blues and spirituals in the union’s Cody Commons.

“H,” heritage day, is Tuesday, and at 3 p.m. on the Quad, American flags will fly for the program called “Why We Serve,” which will honor former FHSU students who gave their lives in past wars serving our country. Speakers will include state Rep. Eber Phelps and Petty Officer Caleb Duke of the United States Navy.

A discussion will take place in Cody Commons to explore the film “Why We Fight” at 7 p.m. on Tuesday.

“S,” student involvement and student

health day, Wednesday, will provide an opportunity for students and visitors to tour the union’s Center for Student Involvement and the Student Health Center. These offices open at 8 a.m. and will offer snacks starting at 11 a.m.

Current FHSU students will lead a morning relaxation activity at 9 a.m. in the Quad called Tai Chi. This event is sponsored by the Student Health Center.

The Center for Student Involvement will also bring back the “Stuff a Tiger” activity. To participate, students must purchase an item from the Grab ‘n’ Go station. The receipt will be a ticket to stuff and build your own FHSU tiger. The event starts at 11 a.m. and is only available to current FHSU students. It is also first-come, first-served.

From 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 1:30 to 3 p.m., people can purchase a chance to win a free meal to a restaurant in Hays to help support the Tigers in Service organization. Inflatable games and putt putt golf will be in the Quad from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Karaoke time on the Quad is from noon until 3 p.m. and a book signing by Linn Ann Huntington, associate professor of communication studies, begins at 2:30 p.m.

on the Quad. She contributed a chapter to the book “Women and Success.”

“U,” for University Activities Board, will showcase student musical talent from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Laurel Hickel, an FHSU sophomore, the reigning Tiger Idol, will perform in Cody Commons followed by Mario Lazoya, with an eclectic style of music. Alex Toepfer, an FHSU senior, saxophone, will perform a variety of jazz pieces. Balloon and body art will also be exhibited.

At 7:30 p.m. comedian Louis Ramey will

perform in a half-hour comedy special.

Other Grand Opening events include a “banned book” sale at the University Bookstore; a specials punch card, available at the Union Student Service Center; a chance to win a \$50 certificate from the University Bookstore; the Commerce Bank spin-the-wheel competition for a chance to win prizes that include a Netflix annual membership, an iPod or a Philips HD-ready flat screen television; and a Chartwells Food Service raffle for a Sony DVD theatre system.

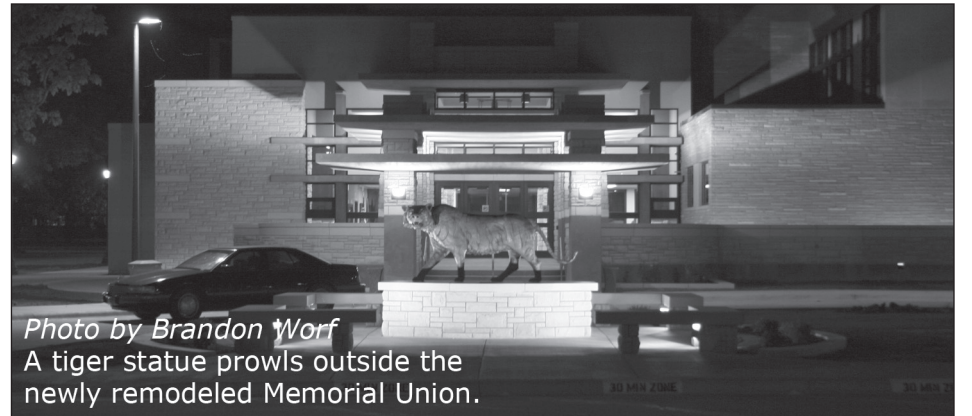


Photo by Brandon Worf
A tiger statue prowls outside the newly remodeled Memorial Union.

Robbins Center ribbon cutting ceremony to be held Saturday

After 16 months of construction at a cost of \$5.7 million, the Fort Hays State University Robbins Center grand opening will begin with a ribbon-cutting at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 8.

The first event in the 28,900-square-foot building, which will be home to the university’s Alumni Association and the FHSU Foundation, will be a public open house, to tour the facility. Refreshments will be served.

“It will be completely open to the community,” said Tim Chapman, Foundation president and CEO. “We hope all will take the time to walk through the Robbins Center and experience the scope of support and services that will be provided.”

The building will serve as a place for university organizations, students and faculty to hold special events and provide a comfortable place for alumni to gather while visiting FHSU.

It was named after lead donors to the building W.R. “Bill” and Yvonne Robbins of Great Bend. As the final project in the university’s 2002 Centennial Fundraising Campaign, funding was entirely by private donations from more than 1,000 people.

The Robbins Center is located on the west edge of campus just north of Gross Memorial Coliseum.

Debra Prideaux, executive director for alumni and governmental relations at Fort Hays State, said moving to the Robbins Center will mark the first time the Alumni Association has occupied space built specifically for hosting alumni.

“For the first time since being established in 1916, the association has a permanent home designed solely as space to engage in the variety of constituents it serves,” she said. “The center offers not only elegance, but also warmth, accessibility and all the conveniences of the latest technol-

ogy. We will be proud to call the Robbins Center home.”

The facility features a 200-seat banquet hall with a fully equipped catering kitchen, an art gallery, a family room, several conference rooms with multi-media capability, a business center with wireless Internet access, and an outdoor garden terrace.

It also has a communications room where the Tiger Call Phonathon, an annual fundraising drive for scholarships, will be conducted.

“The Robbins Center is a multi-functional facility for the university, community and our alumni and friends,” said Chapman. “It’s an exciting time for Fort Hays State. With the renovations of the Memorial Union and the opening of the Robbins Center, there aren’t many functions the campus will not be able to accommodate.”

Construction on the Robbins Center began in April 2006 and was completed this August.

Lines journal available

“You say I’m beautiful. If I am, it is the light of your adoration that illuminates me, for I am nothing without it.”

This excerpt from April A. Smalley’s poem “Illumination” is one of the many features in the 2007 edition of Fort Hays State University’s student literary and arts journal “Lines from the Middle of Nowhere.”

Now available in the Moss-Thorns Gallery of Art or from the Department of English Library in Rarick Hall, room 369, the 18th annual journal contains poetry, stories and artwork from 11 FHSU students and two alumni.

“It’s kind of a random conglomeration of everything ... bits and pieces of student life,” said “Lines” editor Katie Edwards, Hays junior.

Works include an intaglio print, “The Source,” by Nicole Thibodeau, Marquette graduate student; a poem, “The Student Soldier,” by Sara Dreisbach, Cherryvale graduate student; a photograph, “Harley,” by Sheena Reiss, Wilcox special student; a

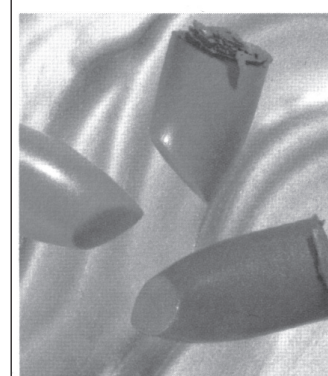
digital illustration, “Historical Film Series,” by Wayne R. Morgan III, Haven special student; and many more.

“Many great poets, authors and artists go unnoticed because they don’t know how to share their work with the larger community,” said Edwards. “‘Lines’ gives students a chance to test the waters, so to speak, and offers them an opportunity to gain the experience and confidence to submit their work on a grander scale.”

All work submitted is read in an anonymous process by an editorial board composed of seven to nine FHSU students. Any current student can serve on the editorial board. All majors and grade classifications are welcome to apply. Applications for the 2008 editorial board are due by Oct. 5.

“We have such fascinating literature, artwork and music here in Hays and at FHSU,” said Dr. Amy Cummins, assistant professor of English and “Lines” faculty advisor. “‘Lines’ is part of this creative environment.”

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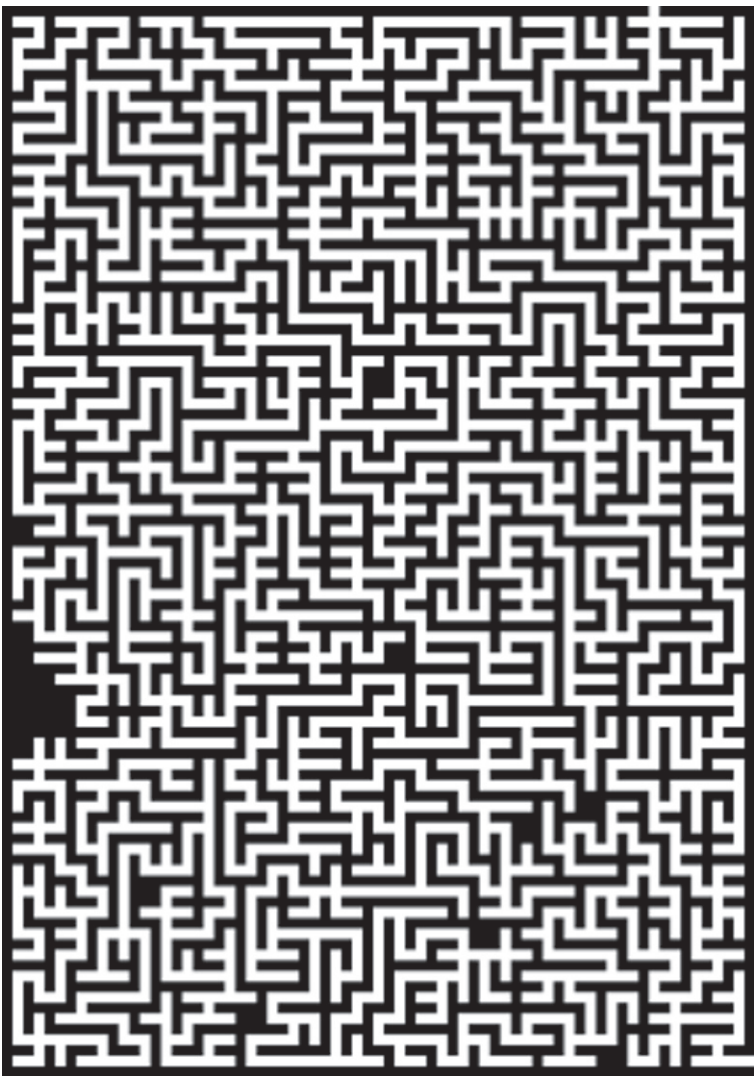
Computers

R E T N I R P D M H D M J T X
K I S U S V I P K O O M U O N
I T I N Q S O C P N U V S G I
I I J A K T B F I Q Q S G Y T
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M Z H U J T B S C O S Z A D Q

DISK
INTERNET
KEYBOARD
LAPTOP
MODEM

MONITOR
MOTHERBOARD
MOUSE
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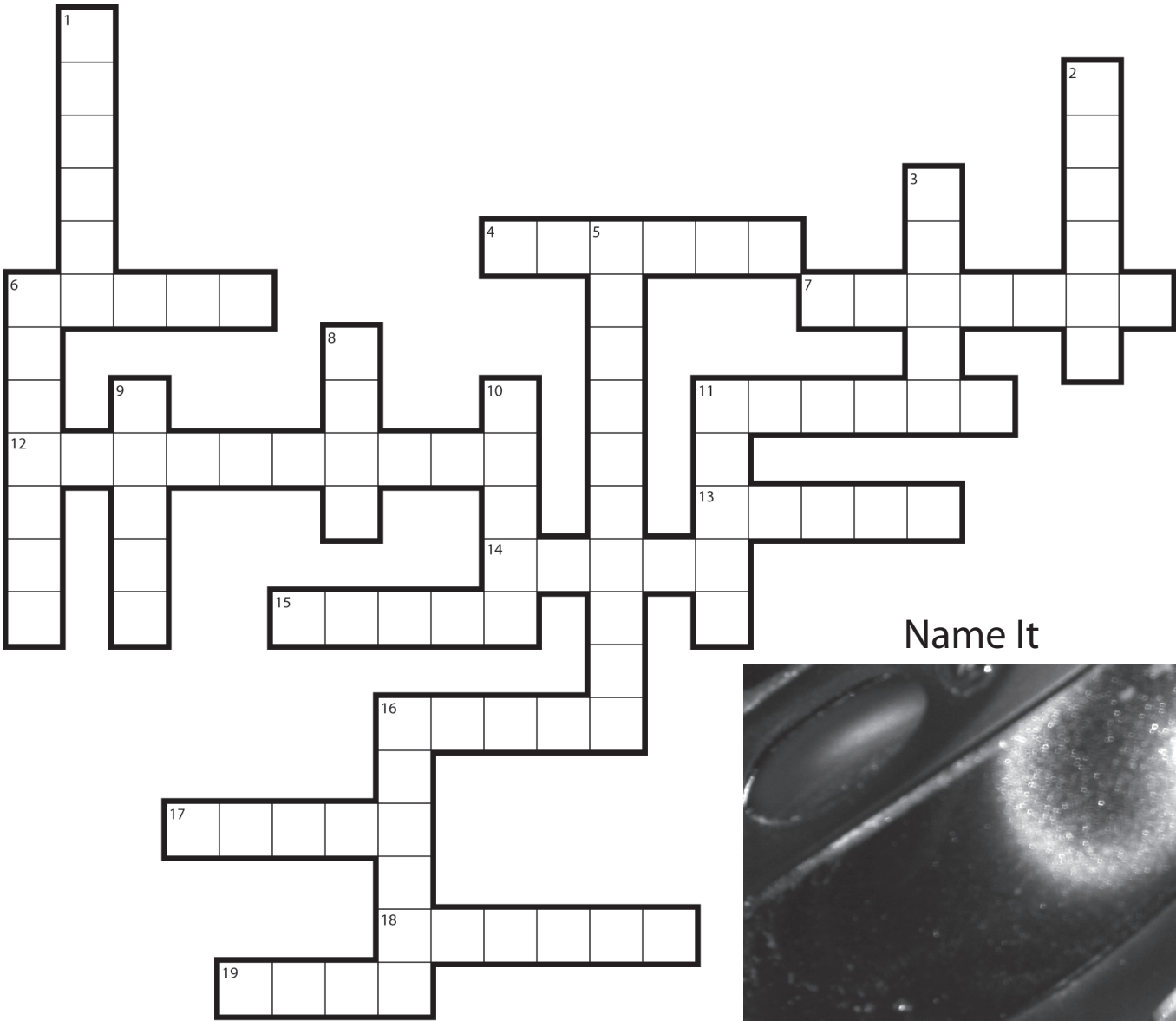
Crossword Puzzle
Everyday Things

Across

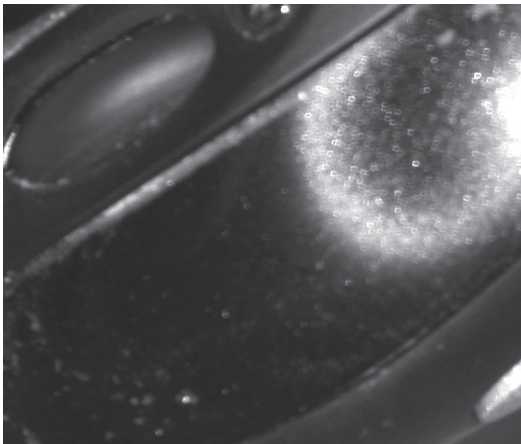
- 4. Sucks it up (6)
- 6. Brushes it aside (5)
- 7. Things get clearer; drink from them (7)
- 11. Creates a virtual image; reflective (6)
- 12. Boob tube (10)
- 13. Tells time; to look (5)
- 14. Holds a picture (5)
- 15. Navigation tool; Small rodent (5)
- 16. Take a seat (5)
- 17. Lazy ____; Rotates goods (5)
- 18. Computing on the go (6)
- 19. Dogs chew on it (4)

Down

- 1. Back and forth, back and forth (6)
- 2. ____ball; you carry things in it (6)
- 3. Keys unlock sounds (5)
- 5. Adds, subtracts, multiplies, and divides (10)
- 6. Stores energy (7)
- 8. Stores stuff (4)
- 9. Round and round it goes (5)
- 10. Slice and cut (5)
- 11. Keeps the lawn down (5)
- 16. Burn it (6)



Name It



Can you identify this object from the close-up view?

Students find advantages, disadvantages to mobile computing

Continued from Page 1

Internet and get my homework done," said Whitney Linenberger, double major in English and Secondary Education.

Perhaps one of the primary benefits to students so far has been the convenience of typing up notes during class rather than taking them by hand. Bekki Ringle, Psychology, said that she can type faster than she can write, so note taking is easier.

She also likes the ability to follow along with the professor with PowerPoint, a computer-based slide show, and she also likes the ability to add personal notes to those slides on her computer.

"You can download your notes prior to class and then print them off and have yourself a study guide as the teacher is lecturing, or just follow along on your laptop," said Jessica Meyer, Nursing.

As handy as the laptops are, they are not without disadvantages. Distraction seems to be the most common complaint.

Alyssa Hertel, Radiology, says the laptops are very distracting. "I want to be on the computer first instead of doing homework," Hertel said.

Meyer, who enjoys the ability to take notes ahead of time, says that can also lead to distraction. "You tend to start doing something else if you don't have to take notes," she said. Ringle added that the Internet can be a distraction.

Beyond distraction, there are other disadvantages. First of all, the computers are not cheap. Students reported paying anywhere from \$850 to \$1700 for the laptops.

Then there are the aspects of carrying a computer in addition to other supplies around campus.

Linenberger says it unpleasant lugging around the computer and books. "It gets a little heavy after three straight classes," she said.

A couple students added that keyboard noise can be distracting in the classroom. One student said it can be difficult finding

a place to charge the laptops in the classroom, and added that the network doesn't always work. Hertel added that not everyone has a laptop.

Some question whether the computers really are necessary.

"I don't think they are absolutely necessary," said Meyer, "but they really make things a lot easier."

Linenberger shares that sentiment. "I think I could survive the classroom without a laptop, but there are a lot of assignments that require typing and research that I would much rather do on my laptop in my own space than at the library or computer lab," Linenberger said.

Hertel believes that the laptops are unnecessary because she has not been required to use a laptop in any of her classes so far.

Ringle believes the laptops are necessary, but isn't necessarily completely sold on the idea. "Anything required for a class needs to be either retrieved online or typed, and communication with a teacher and the school is through the Internet," she said, but added that students with laptops seem to be having more problems than students without laptops.

Despite a couple complaints, Meyer likes the tablets. "I am really glad it was mandatory for students to get one, because I doubt my parents would have gotten me one if I had just wanted one for the heck of it."

Fort Hays State professors see some of the same advantages and disadvantages as the students.

Dr. John Heinrichs, Geosciences, says the technology has met his department's expectations, especially the improvement of wireless Internet.

The laptops and Internet access have

been a big help in his classrooms. "We use them for conducting in-class activities like finding specific landforms with Google Earth and accessing Internet resources," Heinrichs said.

He added that Geoscience professors use the tablets to share presentations with students, who can then make their own notes and save as their own copies.

Dr. Cheryl Duffy, Chair of the English Department, says it may be too early to tell the effectiveness of the new system.

"We won't know until we get 3-4 years down the road when all students, not just new students, can be expected to have tablets," she said.

That said, Duffy enjoys some uses of the tablet, particularly the pen-like stylus, which allows her to make comments in a variety of colors on students' electronically submitted papers.

She can then save those files and cross-reference them with future works to ensure students have made the proper corrections. Duffy also likes the ability to return papers to students as soon as she has graded them instead of waiting until the next class.

Several professors said a major drawback of the new system is that not all students will be participating.

Because the tablet computers were only required for incoming freshman, a large majority of the students on campus do not own tablets.

It is difficult, they say, to make plans using the tablets when only a handful of students have them.

Furthermore, some majors have mostly upperclassmen, many of whom do not have tablets. Dr. Rose Arnhold, Chair of Sociology and Social Work, said the tablets will

be an excellent addition to many of the department's classes, but they won't see the full effects for a few years when more than just freshman are required to have tablets.

Professors also see distraction as a potential problem.

"Even with the most careful instructions and rigorous classroom policies, students find it hard to resist checking email, surfing the web, and other non-class activities," said Heinrichs.

Arnhold has had students with laptops before, and says with an entire roomful of them, there are bound to be a few students getting off-task.

"It seems to me that the faculty member must be very clear and explicit regarding how they are to be used," she said. Arnhold also believes that it will take time for some faculty members to learn to use and troubleshoot the technology when technical problems arise. "The classroom should not be the arena in which teachers falter and fumble, so I place great importance on the faculty being prepared before they begin."

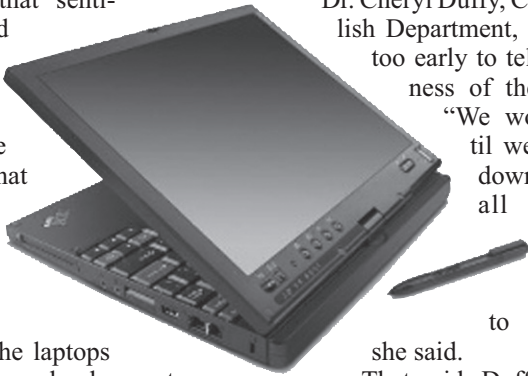
Most professors are optimistic about mobile computing in the future. Arnhold looks forward to tablet use in her department's Methods of Social Research class.

Duffy likes the prospect of students peer-reviewing one another's papers in class.

"I'm also looking forward to the day when all students bring their laptops to class so that we can look at previous Discussion Board postings--or add new postings--as a springboard for face-to-face discussions during class," she said.

Heinrichs added that the tablets will allow access to more and more resources in the classroom over time.

"However," he added, "mobile computing is not a panacea (solution for all troubles), but rather a very useful tool that must be used in the context of a high-quality course. The best computer in the world cannot replace a knowledgeable and caring teacher."



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